

# Town of Ashland Newsletter



Published by the Town of Ashland

www.ashland.nh.gov

March 2005

## **Message from Rick Alpers, Town Administrator**

As you know, it is that time of the year for The Town of Ashland's General Election. This is the time when you can vote for your local officials, like selectman and budget committee. Also, this vote encompasses the ballot for warrant articles and zoning articles. This newsletter is comprised of this year's warrant articles and candidates running for office. Hopefully, this will help those who have not been able to be a part of the budget process and setting of the Town Warrant. So, come out and vote on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>! The polls are open from 9a.m. to 7p.m. at the Ashland Elementary Gym. Remember, it's your civic duty.

## Warrant Articles

OFFICIAL BALLOT

2005 ANNUAL TOWN AND SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION

ASHLAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE

MARCH 8, 2005

### **Article 1:**

To choose all of the following officers for the year ensuing:

(2)	Selectmen	3 Year Term
(1)	Town Treasurer	3 Year Term
(1)	Town Clerk	3 Year Term
(1)	Town Trustee	3 Year Term
(1)	Library Trustee	3 Year Term
(1)	Electric Commissioner	3 Year Term
(1)	Water/Sewer Commissioner	3 Year Term
(4)	Budget Committee	3 Year Term
(1)	Budget Committee	1 Year Term

### **Article 2:**

#### Question 1:

To see what action the town will take on the following proposed amendments to the town's zoning ordinance.

To remove Article 7.5 Flood Hazard Areas Regulation from the Ashland Building Regulations, remove non-existent zone references, and amend the Ashland Zoning Ordinance Article 4 to include the Flood Hazard Areas Regulation as amended, to become Article 4.9. (Majority Vote Required)

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

#### Question 2:

To see what action the town will take on the following proposed amendment to the town's zoning ordinance.

To amend the Ashland Building Regulations Article 7.3 Sewage Disposal changing the departmental sign-off requirements, relieving the Water and Sewer Department of the need to review septic design plans. (Majority Vote Required)

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

#### Question 3:

To see what action the town will take on the following proposed amendment to the town's zoning ordinance.

To amend the Ashland Zoning Ordinance zone description, 2.2b, to add commercial uses to the industrial zones with the exception of residential uses.

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

### **Article 3:**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) to be deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund for the repair of the River Street Bridge over Squam River. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. The Budget Committee does recommend this article. (Majority Vote Required)

### **Article 4:**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$12,700) for the purchase of two 40-yard open top containers and other equipment for the transfer/recycling facility. This amount is the equivalent of a refund to the town that the Pemi Baker Solid Waste District is committed to making in 2005. No amount to be raised from new taxation from this article. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. The Budget Committee does recommend this article. (Majority Vote Required)

### **Article 5:**

To see if the Town will adopt the provisions of RSA 31:95-C to restrict the revenues from ambulance billing to expenditures

# Warrant Articles *(continued)*

for the purpose of the Fire Department apparatus or equipment when needed. Such revenues and expenditures shall be accounted for in a special revenue account fund to be known as the Fire Department Apparatus or Equipment Fund, separate from the general fund. Any surplus in said fund shall not be deemed part of the general fund accumulated surplus and shall be expended only after a vote by the legislative body to appropriate a specific amount from said fund for a specific purpose related to the purpose of the fund or source of revenue. Fund is to go into effect upon passage of this article. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. The Budget Committee does recommend this article. (Majority Vote Required)

## **Article 6:**

To see if the town will authorize the selectmen to enter into a 10 year lease/purchase agreement to cover the acquisition of a ladder truck for the fire department, and also the refurbishing of the remaining fire department fleet through a bid process, and further, to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$ 62,886.27 to make payment during the first year of the lease. The agreement would require an annual appropriation of approximately \$ 62,886.27 for the next nine years for a total expenditure of approximately \$628,862.70, this figure includes interest. This lease does have a non-appropriations clause. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. The Budget Committee does recommend this article. (Majority Vote Required)

## **Article 7:**

Shall the Town of Ashland raise and appropriate as an operating budget not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote on the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$5,283,697.00. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$6,557,178.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Ashland or by law; the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. The Budget Committee does recommend this article. (Majority Vote Required)

## **Article 8:**

To see if the town will vote to authorize the prepayment of property taxes and authorize the Tax Collector to accept such prepayment as provided by RSA 80:52-a. (Majority Vote Required)

## **Article 9:**

Shall the elderly exemptions from property tax in the Town of Ashland, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers,

to be as follows: For a person 65 years of age up to 75 years \$30,000.00; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years of age \$40,000.00; for a person 80 years or older \$50,000.00. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least five years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least five years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$20,000.00 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$30,000.00; and own net assets of not in excess of \$60,000.00 excluding the value of the persons residence. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority Vote Required)

## **Article 10:**

To see if the town will vote to accept the reports of its Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Officers for the year of 2004 subject to corrections of errors when and if found. (Majority Vote Required)

## **Article 11:**

To see if the Town of Ashland wishes to amend the existing agreement under Section 218 of the Social Security Act by excluding the services performed by election workers for a calendar year in which the remuneration paid for such service is less than \$1,200.00. The \$1,200.00 limit on the excludable amount of remuneration paid in a calendar year for the services specified in this modification will be subject to adjustment for calendar years after 2005 to reflect changes in wages in the economy without any further modification of the agreement, with respect to such services performed during such calendar years, in accordance with Section 218 ( c ) ( 8 ) ( B ) of the Social Security Act. The Board of Selectmen recommends this article. (Majority Vote Required)

### **Town Office**

Mon., Tues, Wed & Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### **Building Inspector**

Thursdays 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

### **Welfare Office**

Thursday 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Voice: (603) 968-4432

Fax: (603) 968-3776

E-mail: [townoffice@ashland.nh.gov](mailto:townoffice@ashland.nh.gov)

Web site: [www.ashland.nh.gov](http://www.ashland.nh.gov)

# Planning Board

## Master Plan Workshops

The Planning Board is in the process of updating the Master Plan. The Plan is a tool that helps guide many of the Town's decisions. It determines how Ashland should "look" and what direction the Town will take over a ten year period. The Planning Board will be concentrating on updating the Vision Statement.

The Master Plan should reflect the needs, concerns and goals of the community. In order to do so, the Planning Board needs your participation in the process.

The Planning Board will be holding Master Plan Workshops starting in June of this year.

**Please visit the Town's web site for current information.**  
**[www.ashland.nh.gov](http://www.ashland.nh.gov)**

### Town Report Dedication

The 2004 Town Report is dedicated to **Marion K. Merrill**. We would all be hard pressed to keep up with this energetic citizen. It is with much gratitude for her contributions to this community that we praise this woman for her dedication to the many facets of life in Ashland.

Marion is an Ashland native, a graduate of Ashland High School and Plymouth Normal School in 1936. She is the mother of four sons. Marion partnered with her husband in the insurance business, which she continued after his death. Marion also established a real estate business promoting Ashland properties.

# Candidates

#### Board of Selectmen

Glenn Dion  
Leigh Sharps

#### Town Clerk

Patricia Tucker

#### Town Treasurer

Linda Guyette

#### Town Trustee

Richard Ogden

#### Library Trustee

Julia L. Smith

#### Electric Commissioner

Raymond L. Knowlton

#### Water/Sewer Commissioner

Robert Boyle

#### Budget Committee

Sandra A. Coleman  
Neale Bavis

#### School Board

Helen Knowlton  
Kevin D. Stack

#### School District Moderator

Philip Preston

#### School District Treasurer

Brian Chalmers

#### School District Clerk

Patricia Tucker

#### Board of Selectmen

Gerard Chouinard  
Caroline Gosse  
Daniel Golden  
Robert Moore  
Anthony Randall

#### Town Administrator

Rick Alpers

#### Administrative Assistant

Laura Plummer

#### Town Clerk

Patricia Tucker

#### Town Tax Collector

Patricia Tucker

#### Assessing Department

Beth Gallagher

#### Planning Department

Eli Badger, *Interim Town Planner*

#### Highway Superintendent

Mark Ober

#### Electric Department

##### Commissioners

Raymond Knowlton  
Melvin Holland  
Ernest Hutter

Lee Nichols, Dept. Head

#### Water and Sewer

##### Department

##### Commissioners

Robert Boyle  
Daniel Golden, Selectmen's Rep.  
Ernest Paquette

Russell Cross, Jr., Dept. Head

#### Building Inspector

Robert Hicks

#### Welfare Director

Robert Hicks

#### Health Officer

Russell Cross, Jr.



Town of Ashland  
20 Highland Street  
PO Box 517  
Ashland, New Hampshire 03217

---

# Proposed 2005 Article 6 Informational Sheet

## Why a Ladder Truck?

A Ladder Truck is used to support Firefighting and Rescue Operations including:

- Safety of firefighters and positioning personnel
- Handling materials at elevated locations and providing scene lighting
- Providing emergency egress for citizens and firefighters during an incident
- Discharging water at elevation to help protect exposure buildings
- Minimize roof damage during chimney fires
- Provide a complement of ground ladders
- Equipment used for ventilation and rescue (power fans, power saws, Stokes basket, ropes, etc.)

Ambulance: \$3,000 - Refurbish  
Engine 1: \$30,000 - Refurbish  
Engine 2: \$15,000 - Refurbish  
Ladder 1: \$400,000 - Replacement  
Utility 1: \$35,000 - Replacement  
Contingency: \$20,000

Total: \$503,000 (\$628,862.70 including interest)

*Costs are estimates; we are hopeful, through a bid process, to lower costs.*

The Ashland Fire Department Apparatus Committee has considered several options available to the Town. We feel this proposal will address the problems of our entire fleet and that leasing this, as "one project", is the best feasible way to complete, improve the safety factors of our apparatus and to meet the future needs of the Town.

Ten Year Lease = \$62,886.27/year

Tax Rate Impact = \$0.36 per \$1,000